

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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R 050800Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1630

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PO CH TW

SUBJ: GOP MOVES TOWARD OPENING RELATIONS WITH PRC

REF: LISBON 97

SUMMARY: GOP IS CONTINUING TO TAKE STEPS LEADING EVENTUALLY TOWARD OPENING OF RELATIONS WITH PRC. ROC'S LISBON REPRESENTATION ON WAY OUT, AS PRC LEADER HOLDS TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) CHARGE TOLD EMBOFF IN RECENT CONVERSATION THAT GOP NOTE OF JAN 28 GAVE HIM SIX WEEKS TO CLOSE ROC'S LISBON MISSION AND TWO MONTHS TO LEAVE LISBON. ACCORDING TO CHARGE, FONMIN MARIO SOARES IS ANXIOUS TO SEE NATIONALIST REPS LEAVE ASAP NOW THAT GOP HAS RECOGNIZED PRC (REFTEL). CHARGE SAYS ROC IS CONSIDERING OPENING SOME SORT OF SPECIAL LIAISON OFFICE IN PORTUGAL, BUT IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RECEIVING GOP APPROVAL AT PRESENT TIME.

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2. PRC OFFICIAL TANG MING CHAO PRESENT IN LISBON FEB 3 IN

CAPACITY AS UN VICE SECRETARY GENERAL, HAVING JUST PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONIES UNAUGURATING TRANSITION GOVT IN LUANDA. TANG HOSTED BY FONMIN MARIO SOARES AT LUNCHEON IN DOWNTOWN LISBON RESTAURANT, A FACT NOTED IN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE BY LISBON PRESS. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF GOP-PRC RELATIONS WAS MAIN LUNCHEON TOPIC. SPECULATION CENTERED ON TIMING OF MOVE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS GIVEN TO SUPPOSED CHINESE ANTICIPATION OF IMMINENT POLICY SHIFT BY ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN STATES, URGING MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT GOP NOT ANTICIPATING ANY PROBLEMS IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH PRC. HE FELT MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK WAS DECOLONIZATION (PRC POSSIBLY DESIRING HOLD OFF FORMAL OPENING OF RELATIONS UNTIL ALL AAFRICAN COLONIES INDEPENDENT); MACAO WAS NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED TO BE A PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-1138
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750271/aaaacImn.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 97
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP MOVES TOWARD OPENING RELATIONS WITH PRC
TAGS: PFOR, PO, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006